

This Week in Congress

November 15, 2010

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." Members of Congress will return to Washington today to consider important issues. Our country is facing a number of great challenges, and I look forward to working on behalf of Kansans to address those challenges. This week's headlines are:

- [Honoring Our Nation's Veterans](#)
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- [Visiting the National Association of Farm Broadcasters Convention](#)
- [Kicking Off 14th Annual Listening Tour](#)
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Honoring Our Nation's Veterans

For the past few months, our country has been focused on political campaigns. While elections and the campaigns that precede them are vitally important to our democracy and the direction of our country, I can't help but be concerned that amid the focus on endorsements, pundits and politics, we tend to lose sight of what is truly important in our lives. Perhaps it is fitting then that Veterans Day is observed the week following national elections, to remind each of us where our priorities should be.

On Thursday, I joined Americans around the country in honoring our nation's veterans for their service and sacrifice. It is a time to focus on what is truly important – the things we learn from those who serve our country. Love of country and a belief in a better life for our children and grandchildren matter more than partisan games.

I started my day with veterans in Wichita at the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center. I thanked them for their service, many of whom served our country during some of its darkest hours. I also visited with them about my efforts to improve access to health care across Kansas. There is no group of people I hold in higher regard than veterans, who have dedicated their lives to serving

our country. Thanks to Director Tom Sanders for his hospitality during my visit.

That afternoon, I spoke at the Veterans Day Ceremony in Stafford. I paid tribute to veterans in the Stafford community who have given so much and who continue to give on our behalf. The ceremony in Stafford was dedicated to the memory of two local veterans who passed away earlier this year. I had the chance to visit with their spouses during the event, Mrs. Jonell Leavelle and Mrs. Barbara Logue, to thank them for their husband's service. Special thanks to Mayor David Kirkendall for the invitation to join the Stafford community on Veterans Day. [Click here](#)

to view photos from the event.

[Click here](#)

to read an editorial I wrote recently about the importance of honoring our nation's veterans.



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Recognizing Salina Residents for Significant Contributions

Each year, the Salina business community inducts new members into the Salina Business Hall of Fame. This annual tradition began in 2005 by the local Chamber of Commerce as a way to honor business leaders, both past and present, who have made significant contributions to the community of Salina.

This week, three individuals were selected for this honor. My friend Mike Berkley, Chairman of the Board at Bennington State Bank, was the inductee from the Contemporary Category, and Benjamin Litowich and Thomas Roach were inductees in the Pioneer Category. These men are terrific examples to the next generation of leaders in Salina, and will encourage young people to make a career in business and continue to impact Salina and other local communities. I appreciated the opportunity to speak to a room filled with individuals who have helped Salina become the great community it is today. Thanks to Larry Fief of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce Board; Larry Britegam, Chairman, Hall of Fame Task Force; and Don Weiser, Senior Vice President of the Salina Area of Chamber of Commerce, for the opportunity to speak at the event. [Click here](#) to view photos from the event.

